

# **SAFETY INNOVATION**

**HANDS-FREE PORTAL CRANE POWER**

**GREASE APPLICATOR**

**PLYMOUTH, NC- JUNE 2015**



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# HANDS-FREE PORTAL CRANE POWER CABLE GREASE APPLICATOR

- January 2015
  - Plymouth Woodyard 415 operators, John Wynn and Steve Gurganus are accountable for applying grease to power cables on both portal cranes at the Plymouth Woodyard. This application was being done by applying grease by hand which exposed the employees to potential:
    - Fall hazards from the man lift;
    - Abrasions (hand and finger injuries) from the hoist cables;
    - Potential muscle strain (operating in the red zone- MoveSmart) from awkward body position.
  - Other factors included:
    - Reduce the risk of property damage
    - Reduction in the amount of grease needed to complete task
    - Reduction in post-task housekeeping
  - This is a monthly task.



Grease applied by hand

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- Both employees recognized these potential safety risks and production benefits. As a result, a hands-free applicator (prototype) was developed with the brainstorming efforts of both employees.
- The employees assembled the prototype with items that were found in their work shop.
- The applicator includes: a piece of conduit, brass compression fittings, clear plastic tubing, and hydraulic hoses (later version will be upgraded)
- Total cost- less than \$50.



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- Benefits realized from implementing usage of grease applicator:
  - Less risk of fall from man lift
  - Better ergonomics, less reaching involved- operating in the green zone (MoveSmart)
  - Keep hands and fingers out of the point of operation
  - Reduces the risk of property damage from man lift making contact with hoist cables and lift beam.
  - Applicator more efficiently uses grease from tubes resulting in less waste
  - Post housekeeping time is reduced because applicator controls grease better



Grease applied with hands-free  
Grease applicator



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Questions?



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